

## Tao Fong Overseas Scholarship Students' Dissertations Awarded



The doctoral dissertation “Leben vor den letzten Dingen. Die Dostojewski-Rezeption im frühen Werk von Karl Barth und Eduard Thurneysen (1915-1923)” written by Prof. HONG Liang, our former Tao Fong Overseas Scholarship student and now Assistant Professor of the China Graduate School of Theology, was awarded three prizes, including “Promotionspreis der besten Promotion der evangelisch-theologischen Fakultät der Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen 2016”, “Ernst Wolf-Preis 2017”, and “Manfred Lautenschläger Award for Theological Promise 2017”. Prof. Christoph Schwöbel from University of Tübingen commented that the thesis had made use of new materials with a high accuracy and surpassed existing interpretations of Barth and Thurneysen on Dostoyevsky. Thus it showed a new dimension in the shaping of dialectical theology and revealed many details of the relationship between Barth and Thurneysen.”



Another former Tao Fong Overseas Scholarship student, Dr. Thomas Qu, now lecturer at Beijing Normal University, was awarded “Promotionspreis der besten Promotion der evangelisch-theologischen Fakultät der Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen 2016”. This prize was established by the Forschungszentrum Internationale und Interdisziplinäre Theologie at Heidelberg. Ten distinguished doctoral or post-doctoral theses are awarded every year. Christian Link, Professor Emeritus of the University of Bochum, commented on Dr. Qu’s “Barth

und Goethe: Die Goethe-Rezeption Karl Barths 1906-1921” as follows: “It is a pioneer work filling a long-felt gap. It interprets the second edition of Barth’s *The Epistle to the Romans* in a much clearer and better way than that oriented from Neo-Kantianism.”

## Research Fellow’s Visit to Germany and Switzerland



2017 is the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, our partner Mission EineWelt held a summer course on “Reflecting Reformation” from 4 to 17 July 2016, and representatives from different partners over the world were invited. Our Academic Officer, Prof. Jason Lam, was invited to deliver a public lecture at Augustana-Hochschule in Neuendettelsau on 5 July. His lecture “Studying Christianity in Contemporary China: A Challenge to Imagination of Christian Identity” addresses several core theological issues during the Reformation era through reflecting on the identity of scholars studying Christianity in China nowadays. Since the participants came from different countries and embraced different understandings of Christian identities, a heated discussion was triggered. Prof. Lam took the opportunity to introduce the recent development of Sino-Christian theology, and participants were all interested in this emergent theological qua cultural movement in the Chinese-speaking world.



Afterwards Prof. Lam visited Basel to participate in the 12<sup>th</sup> International Bonhoeffer Congress hosted at Mission 21 (formerly the Basel Mission). He was one of the keynote speakers of the last meeting two years ago

and was the first Asian speaker at the event. This congress was bigger than ever with more



than 100 participants. Apart from Europe and America, there were also many scholars from Africa and Asia (mainly Japan and South Korea). Prof. Lam was the only speaker from East Asia, and he delivered a paper on “Engaging Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Carl Schmitt in a Contemporary Chinese Context” in a panel on 9 July. Attendants included scholars from areas of law, theology and Chinese studies, and all were intrigued. After the congress, Prof. Lam visited Mission 21 on behalf of ISCS (their representatives visited ISCS last May), exchanged ideas with their different departments and explored the possibility of future cooperation.

## Workshop on “Religion-State Relationship in Chinese Context”



Sino-Christian theology has been emphasizing inter-disciplinary studies and dialogue since its emergence, and this perspective is very meaningful for the discussion of religion-state relations in contemporary China. There are many academic resources from the humanities and social sciences on this topic but a platform for dialogue is needed. To remediate this situation ISCS held a workshop on “Religion-State Relations in the Chinese Context” from 14 to 15 July 2016. We invited scholars from different disciplines and places including China, Hong Kong and USA for an in-depth discussion in the two-day program. An inter-disciplinary approach was chosen including philosophy, theology, history, politics, law and sociology. We hoped that this inter-disciplinary approach might enhance the construction of Sino-Christian studies. The schedule of the workshop, the participants, and their topics were as follows:



14 <sup>th</sup> July, 2016	
Opening Ceremony	<b>Chairperson:</b> Prof. Jason Lam (ISCS Academic Officer) <b>1. Opening Speech:</b> Mr. Daniel Yeung (ISCS Director) <b>2. Keynote Speaker:</b> Prof. LAI Pan Chiu (Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts, CUHK) <b>Topic:</b> Religion-State Relationship in Contemporary China
Session One Discipline: <b>Philosophy</b>	<b>Chairperson:</b> Prof. Benedict Chan (Assistant Professor, Department of Religion and Philosophy, BUHK) <b>1. Speaker:</b> Prof. WANG Yunping (Professor, School of Public Affairs, Xiamen University) <b>Topic:</b> Confucian View of Religion in its Early Stages and its Meaning for Religion-State Relations <b>2. Respondent:</b> Prof. HUANG Yong (Professor, Department of Philosophy, CUHK)
Session Two Discipline: <b>Law</b>	<b>Chairperson:</b> Prof. Robin Lovin (Director of Research, Center of Theological Inquiry, Princeton) <b>1. Speaker:</b> Prof. ZHANG Qianfan (Professor, School of Law, Peking University) <b>Topic:</b> Religious Freedom and its Legal Limitation in China <b>2. Respondent:</b> Dr. Joshua Mauldin (Research Fellow, Center of Theological Inquiry, Princeton)
Session Three Discipline: <b>Politics</b>	<b>Chairperson:</b> Prof. KWOK Wai-luen (Associate Professor, Department of Religion and Philosophy, BUHK) <b>1. Speaker:</b> Prof. SUN Lei (Professor, School of Political Science & International Relations, Tongji University) <b>Topic:</b> Relations between Confucianism and Chinese Politics: History, Reality and Future <b>2. Respondent:</b> Prof. Benedict Chan (Assistant Professor, Department of Religion and Philosophy, BUHK)

15 <sup>th</sup> July, 2016	
Session Four Discipline: <b>History</b>	<b>Chairperson:</b> Prof. SUN Lei (Professor, School of Political Science & International Relations, Tongji University) <b>1. Speaker:</b> Prof. KWOK Wai-luen (Associate Professor, Department of Religion and Philosophy, BUHK) <b>Topic:</b> Social Justice in the Journal of Chinese Foreign Religion, 1911-1949: Christianity and Islam <b>2. Respondent:</b> Dr. CHEN Ruiwen (Lecturer, SKH Ming Hua Theological College)
Session Five Discipline: <b>Theology</b>	<b>Chairperson:</b> Prof. Jason Lam <b>1. Speaker:</b> Prof. XIE Zhibin (Professor, Department of Philosophy, Tongji University) <b>Topic:</b> Between Acquiescence and Opposition: What Kind of Theology is Required by the Chinese Political Structure? <b>2. Respondent:</b> Prof. LAI Pan-chiu (Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts, CUHK)
Closing Ceremony	<b>Chairperson:</b> Dr. Joshua Mauldin (Research Fellow, Center of Theological Inquiry, Princeton) <b>1. Keynote Speaker:</b> Prof. Robin Lovin (Director of Research, Center of Theological Inquiry, Princeton) <b>Topic:</b> Politics, Ethics, and Religion <b>2. Respondent:</b> Prof. XIE Zhibin (Professor, Department of Philosophy, Tongji University)





## 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the School of Liberal Arts, Tongji University



During 13-17 May 2016 Director Daniel Yeung was invited to join the celebration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the School of Liberal Arts, Tongji University and the connected conference. He delivered a speech on “Sino-Christian Studies and Humanities” and participated in the annual board meeting. He also met the faculty members and Tao Fong Scholarship students.

## Lecture on “Faith and National Consciousness”



On 15 March 2016 ISCS organized a public lecture with the Center for the Study of Religion and Chinese Society at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. The speaker was Prof. CHEN Caijun, our then visiting scholar and professor from Jinan University. His topic was “Faith and National Consciousness: the Value Judgment of Chinese Christian Intellectuals in the Late Qing Dynasty”. Prof. LEUNG Yuen-sang, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Chinese University of Hong Kong responded to the lecture. There were many attendants from local and Mainland academia and a heated discussion followed.

## Launching of the Teaching Kit for “Global Ethics: Moral and Life Education”



On 18 Mar 2016 about 100 school principals and teachers gathered at the Education University of Hong Kong to join the launching ceremony of the teaching kit for “Global Ethics: Moral and Life Education”. This event was jointly hosted by ISCS, Education University, Roundtable, and Global Ethic Foundation. A set of a 2-volume teaching kit for moral, civil and national education for primary school was launched in the event. The kit is designed to cover the 8 ethical elements suggested by Global Ethic with 40 teaching cases. All cases are accompanied with comics and dramas to encourage lively teaching. The entire program is supported by the Quality Education Fund.

## Visit to Institutes in East China



Our research fellow Prof. Jason Lam visited several institutes in East China during the mid of March 2016. He arrived at Shanghai on 17 March. Besides supervising his doctoral students in Tongji University, he delivered two lectures on “From Autonomy to Theonomy? On the Return of the Sacred in the Post-Enlightenment Era” and “Heidegger on Paul” at Fudan University and East China Normal University respectively.

On 21 March he joined Director Daniel Yeung in Hangzhou and delivered a lecture on “Can Scriptures of Different Religions be Compared?” at the Institute of Christianity and Cross-



cultural Studies, Zhejiang University. They visited Zhejiang Theological Seminary the next day and Mr. Yeung delivered a lecture on Sino-Christian Theology.

## Lecture on “The Birth of a New Religious Community”



On 19 April 2016, ISCS cooperated with the University of Hong Kong to hold a lecture on “The Birth of a New Religious Community: An Ethnographic Study of the Confucian Community”. The speaker, Prof. CHEN Na, was then ISCS’ visiting scholar and Research Fellow of Fudan Development Institute at Fudan University. Participants included students and scholars from Hong Kong, China and overseas and their discussion was lively.

## Visit to Wuhan University

Our research fellow Prof. Jason Lam was invited by Wuhan University to assist in their oral defense of doctoral students by the end of May 2016.



He also delivered a lecture on “Divine Wrath or Human Passion: From the Debate of Löwith and Blumenberg to Gnosticism”. The event was chaired by Prof. SU Dechao and the participants included Prof. ZHAO Lin, Prof. YANG Yunfei, Prof. CHENG Yong, Dr. JIN Zhiqian, Dr. ZHANG Yuntao and students from different departments. They had a vivid discussion.

## Conference on “The Theological Turn of Phenomenology”

The Institute for Phenomenology at Nanjing University was established in 2016 and a conference on “The Theological Turn of Phenomenology” was hosted during 18-19 June. Our research fellow Prof. Jason Lam was invited to join the event and present a paper on “An Interpretation



of the Dual Theological Gifford Lectures by Paul Ricoeur as a Case

Study of His Phenomenological Search of Self-Identity”. The conference covered many thinkers related to the topic. 13 experts from 11 higher institutes in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Mainland participated in the event. The atmosphere was friendly and all expected more interaction in the future.

## Internal Seminar for Visiting Scholars and Students in Spring 2016



From Jan to Jun 2016, a series of seminars was held for the visiting scholars and students to provide a chance for academic discussion

and supervision. The topics of the presented papers are as follows:

Name	University	Position	Topic
ZHANG Shiyang	Nankai University	Professor	The Transformation of the Concept of Atonement in Europe: Taking Indulgence as an Example
CHEN Caijun	Jinan University	Professor	Faith and National Consciousness: the Value Judgment of Chinese Christian Intellectuals in the Late Qing Dynasty
OU Guangan	Shihezi University	Associate Professor	A Brief Survey of Bible Literature Studies in Mainland China: the Example of Liu Yiqing and Wang Lixin
Yosuke Matsutani	Japan Society for the Promotion of Science	Research Fellow	Heroes or Traitors?: Chinese Christian Leaders under the Japanese Occupation during World War II
HUANG Wei	Shanghai University	Lecturer	Introduction to Genesis
CHEN Na	Fudan University	Research Fellow	Beyond Equivalence: A Study of Cultural Barriers in Intercultural Communication
JIANG Manke	Humboldt University Berlin	Doctoral Student	Religion and Individuality: The Concept of Religion in Schleiermacher’s Early Romantic Works
SHANG Wenhua	Shandong University	Doctoral Student	The Development of the Concept of Freedom in Modern Western Philosophy
XU Qinqin	Zhejiang University	Doctoral Student	On Emotions and Apatheia by Evagrius Ponticus
HUANG Xiaohua	Henan University	Doctoral Student	Job from the Viewpoint of Power in Postmodernity
Aleksandrs Dmitrenko	City University of Hong Kong	Doctoral Student	Research on Boxer Rebellion
LIU Jing	Heilongjian University	Doctoral Student	Transition Choice: The Development Trend and Challenges of the Chinese Missionary University and Its Philosophy Education





## Visit of Prof. Robert Schreiter

On 8 January 2016 the renowned theologian Prof. Robert Schreiter from Catholic Theological Union at Chicago visited



ISCS through the introduction of Prof. Peter Choy, the chairperson of our director board and the Dean of the Holy Spirit Seminary College of Theology & Philosophy. Director Daniel Yeung and Prof. Jason Lam welcomed the guests and introduced them the recent development of Christian studies in Mainland China and our ministries.

## Visit to European Institutes



During 14-20 January 2016 Director Daniel Yeung visited several European institutes. First

he visited Areopagos Foundation, sharing with them our recent ministries. He took the chance to visit the School of Mission and Theology at Stavanger, introducing them to our work and explored the possibility of future cooperation. The founder of Tao Fong Shan, Karl Reichelt, was an alumni of this institute and the institute is now transformed to VID University.

Afterwards Mr. Yeung travelled to Amsterdam for visiting the Free University and joining the meeting of the International Reformed Theological Institute. He introduced the idea of the Sino-Christian theology movement and discussed cooperating in hosting an international conference for Reformed theology in Hong Kong in 2017. Lastly he visited



Tilburg University and our overseas scholarship student BAI Junxiao.

## Visit of Japanese Scholars

On 23 February 2016 Prof. Yutaka MORISHIMA from the School of Cultural & Creative Studies at Aoyama



Gakuin University visited ISCS through Yosuke Matsutani, our then visiting scholar, research fellow of Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. Prof. Morishima is interested in contextual theology and exchanged ideas with our academic officer, Prof. Jason Lam, on the Sino-Christian theology movement.

## Visit of Mission 21



On 4 May 2016 Ms. Katharina Gfeller, Program Officer of Mission 21 from Basel (formerly the Basel Mission) visited ISCS

with Prof. Tobias Brandner, their missionary in Hong Kong. Director Daniel Yeung and Prof. Jason Lam introduced them to the development of Christian studies in China and our ministries and explored the possibilities of future cooperation. Jason then visited Mission 21 in July, when he participated at a conference in Basel; both sides developed deeper understanding. Prof. Brandner's *Tradition, Transmission, Transformation: A Critical History of Christianity from the Time of Jesus to the Eve of the Reformation* was published by us in September 2016.

